

## **CLAIMS**

1. A method of routing calls in a telecommunications network routing node, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a call set-up request comprising an indication of at least one node through which the set-up request has passed;

retrieving previously stored call routing information;

routing the call set-up request responsive to a comparison between the indication and the previously stored call routing information.

10 2. A method according to claim 1 in which the routing node is a Private Branch Exchange.

3. A method according to claim 1 in which the indication of previously passed nodes comprises a bit sequence, each bit of which uniquely identifies a network node.

15 4. A method according to claim 1 in which the call set-up request further comprises an indication that the call set-up request relates to a non-primary routed call.

5. A method according to claim 4 in which the indication that the call set-up request relates to a non-primary routed call precedes the indication of at least one node

20 6. A method according to claim 1 in which the call set-up request further comprises an indication of a destination node distinct from the routing node.

7. A method according to claim 1 in which the call set-up request comprises an indication of at least two nodes through which the set-up request has passed.

25 8. A method according to claim 1 in which the call set-up request comprises a indication of all nodes through which the set-up request has passed.

9. A method according to claim 1 in which the routing node itself comprises a plurality of component nodes.

10. A method according to claim 1 in which the step of receiving employs a first communication protocol and in which the step of routing employs a second communication protocol distinct from the first communications protocol.

5 11. A method of routing calls in a telecommunications network comprising a plurality of routing nodes. The nodes being hierarchically structured in at least two levels of hierarchy in which routing of calls employs the method of claim 1 at least at two distinct levels of the hierarchy.

12. A call routing node, for a telecommunications network, comprising:  
a port arranged to receive a call set-up request comprising a trail log,  
10 from another call routing node;  
a store for storing call routing information;  
a router arranged to route the call set-up request responsive to a comparison between the trail log and the stored call routing information.

13. A telecommunications network comprising at least one call routing  
15 node according to claim 12.

14. A program for a computer in a machine readable form for routing calls in a telecommunications network comprising a plurality of nodes, the program comprising portions arranged to perform the steps of:

receiving a call set-up request comprising a trail log;  
20 retrieving previously stored call routing information;  
routing the call set-up request responsive to a comparison between the trail log and the previously stored call routing information.

15. A telecommunications signal comprising a call set-up request comprising a trail log for use in routing the call set-up request.

25 16. A telecommunications signal according to claim 15 in which the call set-up request further comprises an indication that the call set-up request relates to a non-primary routed call.